

proper age. Teach them that all honest work is honorable, that an idle life of dependence on others is disgraceful.

When a boy has learned these four things, when he has made these ideas a part of his being—however poor or however rich—he has learned the most important things he ought to know when he becomes a man.—*Herald and Presbyterian*.

A WORD FOR THE SPARROW.

Every one knows the pert, self-sufficient quarrelsome fellow who prefers the noisy street to the green-leaved garden, and who carries on all his family arrangements and disputes in public, not hindered by the presence of man; but you will probably be surprised to hear how generous a few of these humble birds once proved themselves to be towards a companion in trouble.

A poor sparrow, while nest-building in the thatched roof of an out-house, was caught by the leg by a long thread of worsted which she had been conveying to her nest.

Thus fastened among the straws, she could not extricate herself; she would have died a miserable death if it had not been for her companions, who, with much fuss and clatter, gathered around the unlucky one. They fed her carefully, and no doubt, consoled with her in a language of their own.

Several days afterwards the thread gave way and the captive was set at liberty, an event which was celebrated by much chirping.—*Sabbath School Visitor*.

HOW KITTY PLAYED TRUANT

"Good-bye, Kitty!" said mother, "Be quick, or you will be late for school." Kitty walked down the lane sulking.

"I shall not go," she said to herself. "I hate lessons, and I am tired of school; I shall go and pick flowers instead."

So Kitty went into a field by the river, and gathered flowers till she was tired; then she lay down on a grassy bank and fell asleep.

She dreamed that she was at school, and that the teacher made her stand on a form because she had played truant. And when the others went home to dinner, Kitty had to stay in and do the lessons she had missed; so she began to cry. Just then she woke up.

"Oh, dear," she cried—"how late it is! Mother will wonder what kept me."

Kitty picked up her flowers and began to run. Mother was in the garden.

"Kitty," she said, "where have you been?"

"At school, mother."

"But school has not yet stopped! You must have been playing truant; and I am

very angry with you! You must go to bed and stay there all the afternoon."

Kitty went sobbing upstairs, and resolved never to play truant again.—*Exchange*.

PHILLIPS BROOKS TO PARENTS

Oh, parents, what a task and privilege is yours—to make God so real to your children's life that they shall know that He did send them; and so to make God great and true and sweet and good to your children's first thoughts of Him that they shall rejoice and triumph in the knowledge that they are sent by such a God as He is.

The Sunday School.

LESSON FOR SEPTEMBER 12.

Christian Giving.—Rom. 12: 9-21.

Golden Text: Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. Rom. 12: 21.

Lesson Thought: The best way to overcome evil is to live a true, Christian life.

HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS.

Our last lesson was on Christian giving, this one is on Christian living. The two must go hand in hand. They cannot well be separated. This lesson is made up of precepts, positive and negative. The reader will be surprised to find in these twelve verses *thirty-one* precepts, things we are to do and things we are not to do. We know of no better way of studying the lesson than by arranging these precepts into negative and positive, thus making an outline that will fix them firmly in our minds. Note then first the positive precepts, or the things which the apostle would have us do and observe.

Positive Precepts:

1. Let love be without dissimulation.
2. Abhor that which is evil.
3. Cleave to that which is good.
4. Be kindly affectioned one to another.
5. In honor preferring one another.
6. Be fervent in spirit.
7. Serving the Lord.
8. Rejoicing in hope.
9. Patient in tribulation.
10. Continuing instant in prayer.
11. Distributing to the saints.
12. Given to hospitality.
13. Bless them which persecute you.
14. Rejoice with them that rejoice.
15. Weep with them that weep.
16. Be of the same mind to one another.
17. Condescend to men of low estate.
18. Be honest in the sight of all men.

19. Live at peace with all men.
20. Give place unto wrath.
21. Feed thine enemy when hungry.
22. If thirsty give him drink.
23. Overcome evil with good.

Negative Precepts:

1. Not slothful in business.
2. Curse not.
3. Mind not high things.
4. Be not wise in your own conceits.
5. Recompense to no man evil for evil.
6. Avenge not yourselves.
7. Be not overcome of evil.

There may not be time in the one-half given to the lesson to discuss all these precepts, but there will be time during the week to think over all of them. The Christian should carry about with him in his own life these holy precepts. They are excellent rules to live by, and if they were observed by all church members there would be no need of any discipline on the part of church officers for peace, joy and love would prevail throughout the entire congregation.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION.

1. *Lofty Teachings.*—No one can fail to admire the beautiful teachings of this chapter. It is Paul's program for right living. What a beautiful world this would be if everybody were to adopt these rules and live by them. There would be no more quarrelling, no fighting, no drinking to excess, no stealing, no dishonesty, no idleness, no pride, no evil doing, no strife, no murder, no revengeful spirit, no covetousness, no lust, no crime of any kind; peace and brotherly love would prevail, joy, gladness and happiness would reign in human hearts, in our homes, in the nation and in the world. If any one doubts these things let him make a careful analysis of this chapter, the things we are commanded to do and the things we are commanded not to do, and see whether or not what we here say is strictly true. It will be observed that the chapter deals in positive and negative precepts, setting forth the things we are to do and the things we are not to do. Let us get these holy precepts into our hearts and make them part of our very lives.

2. *Things To Do.*—Among the positive precepts are these: 1. The exercise of pure love and kind affections toward one another. Our love is to be without hypocrisy and our affections like to that which exists between members of the same family. 2. Cleave to the good. We are to be so cemented to the good that nothing can separate us from it. 3. In honor preferring one another. We should be willing to do the most lowly service re-